

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: Catteau, F. et al.	Group Art Unit: 1742 Examiner: J.A. Morillo
Serial No.: 10/727,051	
Filed: December 4, 2003	
For: EDGE-ON STRESS RELIEF OF THICK ALUMINUM PLATES	

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, François Lemaitre, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I graduated from Ecole Polytechnique (France) in 2000 and from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Techniques Avancées in 2002. Since then, I have worked in the Alcan's Voreppe Research Center and I am now in charge of a project related to the above-identified patent application ("the present application") for Alcan. I am also familiar with US Patent No 6,406,567 (Haszler) and with European Patent EP 1158068A1 ("EP '068") to Warner.

2. The present application is directed to products having very low stored elastic energy (the stored elastic energy  $WT_{\text{bar}}$  along the T direction is less than  $0.5 \text{ kJ/m}^3$ ). This type of product can be obtained, for example, by using an "edge-on stress-relief" process wherein compression is performed through the width or the length of the product itself. As discussed, for example, in [0049] of the present application, in an "edge-on stress relief" process, compression is performed "along the L or T direction" *i.e.* through width or through length, which significantly reduces the surface area to compress and thus

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